

A Short State of our Condition, with Relation to the present PARLIAMENT.

IT is too sad a Subject to admit of Raillery, otherwise a man might say that we may defy all the Plots of the *Jacobites* & the Machinations of *Republicans*, since there is so good an understanding between the *King* and his *People*, since the *People* have chosen him a *Parliament*, of which he thinks so many of the *Members* are fit to be employed by him, as well as entrusted by them. A man might Droll on, but he can have no *English* heart, nor thinking head, who can sport himself with our Calamities. There cannot sure be any Circumstance which can make *England* more impregnable, more Glorious and happy than when the *King* and *Parliament* joyntly agree in *National* Designs. But neither can there be any juncture more fatal than when an *House of Commons* seem as much in a *Separate* Interest from that of their Country, as *Parasites* in these latter *Reigns* have perswaded our *Kings* to be. Such an *House of Commons* will make *Slavery* Authentick, will bubble us out of all sense of *Liberty*. What with talking of the *Church* and the *Monarchy* at one time, and the *French* and *Popery* at another, they will first cheat themselves, and then delude as well as betray the Nation. They will most easily betray the Nation, because we are not apt now to find fault with any thing that has a *Parliamentary* Sanction. That two hundred thousand Pounds a year bestowed upon the *Parliament*, has already drawn out of the Subjects Pockets, more Millions, than all our *Kings* since the *Conquest* have ever had from this Nation; and that without any rude complaint, is a Proof, that if a *King* can manage well Mr. *Guy's* Office he may without much adoe set up for *Absolute*. VENALIS EST ANGLIA, for VENALE EST PARLIAMENTUM. Heretofore indeed it was not necessary only that a *Parliament* should give, but that they should give reasonably; as *Flammocks* Rebellion, and others in *King Henry* the Sevenths *Reign* witness, and yet I believe our *Rolls* will not furnish us with many *Sessions* wherein money was given, and no one *Country* Bill granted. But our *Ancestors* were wise enough to instruct their *Members*, and our *Constitution* so regular, that we had frequent *Elections*. But when think you shall we have a new *Election* now, since the *King* has about Sixscore *Members*, that I can reckon who are in places, and who are thereby so entirely at his *Devotion*; that altho they have mortal *Fewds* when out of the *House*, tho' they are violently of opposite *Parties* in their *Notions* of *Government*, yet they Vote as lumpingly as the *Lawn Sleeves*, never divide when the Interest of the *Family* (as they call it) is concern'd, that is to say, when any *Court* Project is on foot. The *House* is so Officer'd, that by those that have *Places*, and *Pensions*, together with their

Sons, Brothers, and Kinsmen, and those who are fed with the hopes of Preferment, and the too great influence these have upon some honest mistaken Country Gentlemen, (who are possibly overfrighted with the *French*) the King can baffle any *Bill*, quash all Grievances, stifle Accompts, and Ratifie the *Articles of Limerick*. I call them mistaken Country Gentlemen, who can be persuaded that an Honest Bill can be at any time out of Season. I confess they must adore Kings more than I do, who when their own Management has brought them into Difficulties and Streights, don't love to make good use of their Humiliations. I would trust an Elected King a great way, if I saw he understood Election to be his Title, if our Generosity would engage him to Reformation, but when I see he knows neither his own nor our Interest, Employs many of those who have been our Enemies all along, and were his when the Debate of the Crown was on foot; when I see him hate and Nickname as *Common-wealths* men those whose Principles made them the Authors of his Greatness, and those that would have him do the Business for which he came, for which both he and we said he came: when I see him sometimes soliciting in person in the *House of Lords*, at others by my Lord *Portland*, besides what he does by all his Under-Officers, when I hear he sends Commands to some Lords, and Bribes to others, and turns out of his Place the gallant Lord *Billsamont*, merely for giving his Vote in the House of Commons according to his Conscience, and thereby intends to terrify others; when I find the Money the Nation gives to defend our Liberties from Foreigners abroad, is like to undermine them at home, in a word, when I see neither the one nor the other House can withstand the power of Gold, I say when I perceive all this, it is time to give Warning, it is time to look about us. I once thought to have affixed to this Paper a List of those that are in Office, which if I had, it would not only have shewn how many Members are bought off; but would have pointed out many amongst the Number of Favourites and Pentioners, who we expected should rather have been punished. Had we intended to have justified what we have done to after-times. Had any thing but personal Grandeur been the real intention of him who we intended should have been and valued himself most upon being our Deliverer; these men must have been marked down as Betrayers of their Country, who are now made the chief Supporters of his Throne. I thought we called over the *Prince of Orange* to get or give us all the Laws we wanted; to have made the Elections of Parliament secure and frequent, Tryals impartial, the *Militia* our standing Force, and the Navy our strength. I thought we had call'd him over to call Ministers to an account, and to have put it out of their power Impunibly to abuse us hereafter. If any Spirit of Liberty Remains, if we are not destined to destruction, sure the Nation will take some way to let the King and both Houses know that they expect they should not only provide for a Campaign in *Flanders*, but (if we should yet have our wished for Success) for our Security even against

our own Victories, and such Laws as may make it worth while at this time to defend our Country; I say worth while to defend it; for if we are to be Slaves, its no matter to whom we are so. I would not embarrass the Government, but I would have those that are in it understand that it is for our good and not to gratify their own Ambition that they are put into those posts.

It was the Custom formerly for the People to pay their Members, and those Members were trusted by the People to keep the Balance between their Liberties and the Kings Prerogative. But since they are retained by him, with such Overgrown Fees (such Places and preferments) to be Council on his side, how can the People hope they will be just in their Arbitration? But after all I would not be thought to insinuate, that all that are in Places give up the Interest of *England*; there are some, and those in great Places too, of whom I can't allow my self to have one hard thought, tho' there are others of whom the world had a very good opinion, who since they have had Preferment, have taken care to convince us, that we were mistaken in their Characters. Lest the good should not be distinguished from the bad, I forbear making a List, which most Members, if they please, can make for themselves and their Neighbours, and more exactly than I can do it, and I think the best ought to suspect & examine their own Consciences, whether their Employments don't byass their Votes. If men are to make fortunes by being of our Senate-House, we had better our selves pay the Disbursements of those we send, we had better our selves allow them plentiful Salaries for sitting there, each particular County would save by it in the publick Assessments, and find their account in it, whilst they preserve their Members from the temptation of being hired out of their Interest, and consequently get good Laws for what they give. We can scarce pay too much for good Laws, and if we have not some *that we have not yet* we shall not when the War is over (let it end which way it will) be able to call what we have our own. If the Members of Parliament are to overlook all the ill Husbandry of the Government, that they may share in the Profuseness and bribery of it, if our Rights are set to Sale by some, and neglected by others, when the very Being of the Government depends upon our being pleased, what amendment, what confirmation shall we have of our Constitution when all our Dangers are over? This is a thought that deserves our most serious Reflections. In the Late times the City of *London* often petitioned for passing of Laws; will they always lend Money now, and never expect a thorow alteration of the Ministry, and Securities for the future against Court Projecters? In King *James the first's* time there were certain Sparks that undertook for Parliaments, they were called Undertakers, and there is a certain Secret that has Stole out of our *Cabinet*, that one there immediatly upon the Kings refusing the *Triennial Bill* last Sessions, undertook that it should be thrown out the next time they Sat, with as much scorn and contempt as was
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the *Judges Bill*. It is time to have *Annual Parliaments* instead of *Triennial*, since *Privy Counsellors* and *Lords of the Treasury* (both which Stations this Person enjoys) can so perfectly feel the Pulse of a Parliament, during an Interval. I could name a certain Gentleman who exactly resembles *Harry Guy*, that the last Sessions when the House was a little out of Humor, disposed of no less then *sixteen thousand Pounds* in three dayes time, for *secret Service*. Who are in Places we may find out, but God knows who have Pensions, yet every man that made the least observation can remember that some who opened loudly at the beinning of the last Sessions, who came up as eager as is possible for Reformation, had their Mouths soon stopped with *Hush-money*. It has been of some time whispered, that if this will not at first preingage to do what will be exacted at their Hands, we shall have a new Parliament. I can't tell whether a new Parliament will not be practised upon by the *Carmarthen Art*; however it is our last and best remedy; for if this continues, *God have Mercy upon poor England*; for hitherto we have been and we are like still for ought I see, to be repayed for all our expence of Blood and Treasure, with the *meer Smoak* that *Boccaline* mentions in his Advertisement from *Parnassus*, whereby the Enemies of the Government have but too great advantage given them to ridicule us for our foolish credulity.

F I N I S .